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LONG ASHTON RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

YEAR 1925.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Long Ashton Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN.

I beg to place before you my report on the sanitary condition of the district during the past year.

In conformity with the Ministry of Health's requirements, this is a "Survey" report, and includes detailed accounts of the condition of each parish as regards water supply, sanitary arrangements and other matters not usually dealt with at length.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—47,852 acres.

Population (census 1921)—17,611.

Population (estimated to middle of 1925)—18,850.

Number of inhabited houses (1921)—3,944.

Approximate number of inhabited houses (end of 1925)—4,582.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)—4,114.

Rateable value (December, 1925)—£179,686.

Assessable value (December, 1925)—£135,532

Sum represented by a penny rate—£564 14s. 4d.

Amount of Poor-law Relief for year ending March 31st, 1925—
£2,730.

The Long Ashton Rural District forms an irregular, somewhat oblong figure, about 23 miles from east to west, and 15 miles from north to south. Bounded on the north-west by the Urban District of Clevedon, the foreshore of the Bristol Channel and the Urban District of Portishead; on the north-east by the City of Bristol and River Avon; on the south-east by the Keynsham District, and on the south and south-west by the Clutton and Axbridge Districts. It consists of 21 parishes, the inhabitants of most of them being chiefly occupied in agricultural work; but the increasing tendency for townspeople to take up their residence in the adjoining country villages, combined with the gradually diminishing numbers employed in agriculture, is altering the characteristics of the population considerably.

The parishes chiefly affected in this respect are Bishopsworth, Backwell, Long Ashton and North Weston (Redcliffe Bay), but there are developments on a smaller scale in several other parishes.

Leigh Woods (near Clifton) and Walton Park (near Clevedon) have been residential districts only, from their earliest days.

At Pill the population is largely seafaring, the Bristol Channel pilots having lived there for generations, but there is a considerable number of inhabitants now earning a livelihood at Avonmouth and Portishead Docks.

At Winford there are mines for raising iron ore and ochre.

At Yatton there is a furniture factory employing about 100 hands and a tannery (at Claverham).

At Bishopsworth a considerable number of men were formerly employed at the South Liberty and Ashton Vale Collieries, but these are now closed down, no coal being produced in the district at all now.

Limestone Quarrying is carried out in various parts of the district.

The Ham Green Estate near Pill, on which are built the City of Bristol Isolation Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium, has been taken into the Bristol area, but provides employment for a number of men and girls in the Pill district.

At Long Ashton there is an Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station connected with Bristol University.

The bulk of the inhabitants, however, are still engaged in agricultural work; most of the land is pasture, and meat, milk, and butter the principal products. A very small proportion of the land is corn producing.

There are no conditions of occupation or environment which have a prejudicial effect on the health of the district, and no special causes of sickness or invalidity which have been noteworthy during recent years.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

		Male.	Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	134	144	...	278
Illegitimate	...	6	3	...	9
		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
		140	147	...	287
		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

Total births—287; compared with 279 last year.

Birth rate (per 1,000 of population)—15·22. This is a very low rate, the rate for England and Wales this year being 18·3.

DEATHS.

Total (after corrections for transfers in and out)—239; of whom 110 were males and 129 females. 103 deaths were of persons 70 years of age and over, seven being over 90.

Death rate (per 1,000 of population)—10·25. The death rate for England and Wales is 12·2.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Measles	1	Ulcer of stomach or	
Whooping cough	1	duodenum	6
Diphtheria	3	Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.)	1
Influenza	4	Appendicitis (typhlitis)..	2
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	11	Cirrhosis of liver	1
Tuberculosis (other forms)	1	Acute & chronic nephritis	11
Cancer		Puerperal sepsis	0
(malignant disease)	23	Other accidents and dis-	
Rheumatic fever	1	eases of pregnancy	
Diabetes	4	and parturition	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage ...	26	Congenital debility and	
Heart disease	36	premature birth	9
Arterio sclerosis	6	Suicide	1
Bronchitis	16	Other deaths from	
Pneumonia (all forms) .	9	violence	7
Other respiratory diseases	6	Other defined diseases...	52

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age—13. Legitimate, 8 males, 5 females. Illegitimate, nil.

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)—45·29. Not so low as last year, but still very satisfactory. Of the 13 deaths one only was due to so-called preventable disease, viz. :—Broncho-pneumonia. The remainder were all due to congenital disease and premature birth, etc.

Ages at death—Under one week, 7; one to four weeks, 3; one to six months, 3; six to twelve months, nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifications:—

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	43	23	—
Diphtheria	16	12	3
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	3	1	—
Pneumonia (acute Primary) ..	17	—	6
„ (Influenzal) ..	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	84	36	9

The case of ophthalmia neonatorum was treated at home and recovered without impairment of vision.

No cases of small-pox, enteric fever, or puerperal fever have been notified this year. There has been nothing of marked importance to report during the past five years as to the prevalence of infectious diseases in this district. Scarlet fever was very prevalent in the larger villages during 1921, 1922, and 1923, but has now declined. Seven cases of diphtheria occurred in two families living in the same house, but no further cases arose in the village as the result of this focus.

Isolation Hospital.—This is a corrugated iron and wood building erected originally as a small-pox hospital, and was opened occasionally when large outbreaks of scarlet fever or diphtheria arose. In June, 1924, it was opened on a permanent basis, and has been in use the whole of this year. It has, I think, been of use in checking the incidence of infectious diseases (chiefly scarlet fever and diphtheria) in the district since it was opened, and is at any rate a great convenience to the inhabitants. The following figures show the work during the past year :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Cases in Hospital on Dec. 31st, 1924	—	3
Cases admitted during the year 1925...	23	13
Cases discharged ..	20	13
Cases died in Hospital ..	—	3
Cases remaining in Hospital at end of year	3	—
Total number of days' sickness ...	1099	343
Average number of days' sickness ...	47.7	26.3

One case of diphtheria died a few hours after arrival at Hospital.

The Medical Officer in charge is Dr. H. O. Corfield, to whom I am indebted for the above figures. The permanent staff consists of matron and wardmaid, but extra nurses are engaged as required. Removal of cases is arranged for by the Sanitary Inspector.

The Hospital consists of one block, with administrative portion in the centre, and two wards of four beds each on either side—16 beds altogether.

Two diseases can be thus accommodated at the same time. There is a sufficient space fenced off to provide recreation for convalescents.

Disinfection.—A Meldrum's portable steam disinfector is used to disinfect patients' clothing and bedding, and this is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who also disinfects the rooms at patients' houses, spraying with Izal and fumigation with formaldehyde being the methods usually employed.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free of charge by this Authority when the medical attendant considers it necessary.

The Schick Test in diphtheria and the Dick Test in scarlet fever have not been used up to the present in this district.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Public Health Laboratory, Weston-super-Mare, and the facilities provided are freely used by practitioners in this district.

There has been no necessity for vaccinations to be carried out by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Accurate returns of these are not possible, but a general idea as to their prevalence is obtained from the reports furnished by the head teachers of the schools in the district. During the past year schools have been closed for these diseases as follows :—

<i>School.</i>	<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Period of Closure.</i>
Winford		
(Ridghill St. James)	Whooping cough	Feb. 21 to Mar. 14
Walton-in-Gordano ...	Measles ...	Feb. 23 to Mar. 11
Wraxall ...	Influenza ...	April 4 to April 8
Wraxall ...	Measles ...	April 21 to April 25
Pill (Infants) ...	Mumps ...	Oct. 27 to Nov. 14

From the above it is probable that non-notifiable diseases have been much less prevalent than usual. Influenza has certainly been of a much milder type than in previous years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Notifications.	Removed to Sanatoria.	Deaths.
Respiratory ...	21 ...	16 ...	11
Other forms ...	6 ...	— ...	1

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..								
1 to 5 years ..								
5 to 10 „ ..		1	1					
10 to 15 „ ..		1	1					
15 to 20 „ ..	1	1		2		2		
20 to 25 „ ..	1	5		1	1	4		
25 to 35 „ ..		5				1		
35 to 45 „ ..	1	2			1	1		1
45 to 55 „ ..	1	1		1				
55 to 65 „ ..	1							
Over 65 years ..					1			
Totals	5	16	2	4	3	8		1

Notifications were 11 fewer than in 1924.

There is no cause for complaint as to notification, and all suitable cases are removed to sanatoria under control of the County Authority.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries for this area are at 10, Redcliffe Parade, Bristol, and at Clevedon.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.—No necessity has arisen for taking action under the above during the year in this district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals.—The only hospitals in the area are the Poor-law Infirmary and the Isolation Hospital mentioned in the notifiable diseases section. Both are at Flax Bourton. The greater part of the district is close to Bristol, and the large hospitals there are available to and freely used by residents of this area, so that there is little need for other hospitals, though in some of the more remote villages cottage hospitals would be a convenience.

There are no institutions for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children other than the Poor-law Institution. Yatton Hall and Leigh Court are now occupied by mentally deficient children, the former being owned by the Somerset County Council, and the latter by "The National Institution for Persons requiring Care and Control."

Ambulance Facilities for infectious diseases are provided by this Council; for other purposes the St. John's and City and Marine Ambulance Corps in Bristol serve this district most satisfactorily.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Maternity and child welfare clinics are held at Long Ashton, Pill and Wraxall. They are worked on voluntary lines with the help of Government grants, and do valuable work. There are no day nurseries or school clinics.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases for this district are provided at the Bristol General Hospital and Royal Infirmary.

Public Health Officers of this Authority.—Medical Officer of Health (part time) and one sanitary inspector (whole time), to whose salaries contribution is made under the Public Health Acts. There are no specialised inspectors.

Health Visitors and Special Nurses.—None provided by this Authority, but in cases of necessity, in severe epidemics, etc., are arranged for as required.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—None provided by this Authority. There are nine district nurses in the district, covering practically all the area, some of whom are subscribed to by the Poor-law Authority. All are supported by voluntary contributions, supplemented by State grants for services as Health visitors in maternity cases and for assistance at School Medical Inspections, etc. The District Nursing Associations in the area are :—

Association.	Area Covered.
Bishopsworth	Bishopsworth.
Nailsea	Nailsea and Tickenham.
Pill & District	Easton in Gordano, Abbots Leigh & Portbury
Wraxall	Wraxall and Flax Bourton.
Long Ashton	Long Ashton
Winford and Dundry	Winford, Dundry and Barrow Gurney.
Yatton	Yatton (including Claverham and Cleeve).
Portishead.—Though not in this area attends North Weston.	Clapton and Weston-in-Gordano.
Clevedon.—Also outside this area ; attends Kenn, Kingston Seymour, and Walton-in-Gordano.	

Midwives.—Number in the area, 13. Of these nine are district nurses and four work independently. None are subsidised by this Authority. There appears to be a sufficient number to deal with all cases.

Chemical Work.—This is carried out at the County Public Health Laboratory ; sometimes also at Bristol University. No occasion has arisen for any special chemical analyses during the year, apart from bacteriological examinations of water, disease swabs, etc.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THIS AREA.

(1) All sections of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, that are applicable to Rural Districts. Adopted in 1917.

(2) Public Health (Buildings in Streets) Act, 1888. Urban powers were obtained to adopt this Act. The effect of this Act is " That it shall not be lawful in any Urban District, without the written consent of the Urban Authority, to erect or bring forward any house or building beyond the front mainwall of the house or building on either side thereof in the same street, nor to build any addition to any house or building beyond the front main wall of the house or building on either side of the same.

(3) Bye-laws with respect to new streets and buildings have been in force for the entire district since July, 1923.

(4) Bye-laws as to (a) Common lodging-houses, (b) Nuisances, for the parishes of Bedminster, Long Ashton, North Weston, Easton-in-Gordano, and Pill Special Drainage District, adopted 1885 (adopted for Yatton in 1900). (c) The cleaning of footways and pavements. The removal of house refuse. The cleaning of earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools for all parishes in the district except Pill. Adopted 1885.

(5) Drainage regulations for the entire district. Adopted September, 1925.

(6) Regulations as to dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops. Adopted 1907.

(7) Bye laws with respect to slaughter-houses for Bishopsworth, Long Ashton, North Weston and Pill.

The Council have applied to the Ministry of Health for permission to adopt a new series of bye-laws with respect to slaughter-houses to be applied to the entire area, and are awaiting formal sanction. They are also applying for permission to adopt all applicable sections of the Public Health Act, 1925, as far as they concern Rural Districts.

It may also be desirable that the Council should consider the adoption of bye-laws with respect to tents and caravans and houses let in lodgings. Also the Public Health Act, 1907, in so far as it concerns Rural Districts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A detailed description of this was last given in the 1912 report. No very large new system has been developed in any part of the area since, but many important extensions of existing supplies have been carried out, and a large number of houses connected up to these supplies during the past five years, which were previously supplied by wells, etc. On the whole, the district is fairly well provided with good water, but exceptions are "60 acres," Failand (in Wraxall parish), Martcombe (in the parish of Easton-in-Gordano), the Redcliffe Bay Estate, North Weston Parish, Kenn and Kingston Seymour. Constant efforts are being made to induce owners and tenants within reach of a piped service to connect up with it, and to get extensions of existing supplies, on the whole with good results.

Samples of water were taken from seven different sources during this year and examined bacteriologically at the County Public Health Laboratory.

The present condition of the water supply in each parish is as follows :—

Abbots Leigh.—2,276 acres, 79 houses, 67 piped services. All houses in Bristol and Church Roads have Bristol Water Co.'s supply except one house at the Pill end of parish, which has Portishead Co.'s water. Glen Farm and Cottages have piped service from private spring. Carey's lodge has only rainwater. Some dwellings in Blackmore Wood are badly supplied by dipping places in the course of a piped service to Ham Green Hospital. This supply has been reported unfit for drinking purposes and is used at the Hospital only for washing, etc.

Backwell.—2,929 acres, 304 houses, 135 piped services. Bristol Water Co. supplies practically all houses on main Bristol Road, Rushmore Lane, Church Lanes, Church Town and Backwell Green as far as the railway. Recent extensions to Dark Lane, West Town, and Backwell Common. Backwell Hill House, at an altitude of 500 feet, also has this supply. Outlying farms have wells. Three new houses at high altitude use rainwater only, and the hamlet of Downside (about 20 houses) is almost entirely dependent on rain-

water. It is almost impossible to get piped service to all houses in this scattered parish.

Barrow Gurney.—2,064 acres, 68 houses, 12 piped services, and 2 stand pipes in village. Bristol's Water Co.'s main runs through village. There is a well at Gratwicke Hall and some houses at high altitudes depend on rainwater.

Bishopsworth.—1,764 acres, 275 houses, about 170 piped services. Bristol Water Co. supplies the greater part of the parish, except scattered farms and cottages, where good supplies are available, so that this parish is well supplied. The main runs to Oakhill Farm, on the old Turnpike Road, Highridge Common into Dundry parish, Bridgwater Road, South Liberty Lane, Hedley and Whiten-ing Yard.

Brockley.—1,148 acres, 24 houses. Bristol Water Co. supplies all but one house in Brockley Woods and three others that use wells.

Clapton-in-Gordano.—1,355 acres, 42 houses, no public supply. In the village are dipping places by the side of the road, and a never-failing supply comes out of the hillside. There are also several wells. Clapton Wick Farm is supplied with rainwater. Three bungalows at West Park and Cadbury Lane have a piped service from a private spring giving about 1,000 gallons daily. Some cottages on the moor are not well supplied.

Dundry.—2,897 acres, 163 houses, piped service to 10 houses (Bristol Water Co.) at Bishopsworth end of parish. There is a good supply of water from wells and springs to nearly all other houses, only two houses depending on rainwater. A pond at an elevation of 765 feet is fed by a spring that never fails.

Easton-in-Gordano.—1,765 acres, 626 houses, about 400 piped services. Portishead Water Co. supplies the greater part of this parish, the mains running from Portbury Boundary through St. George's and Pill to Ham Green. The Portbury (or Easton-in-Gordano) Shipyard is also supplied. A free supply at Pill, known as the Pond Head supply, is also available, and residents within 200 feet of this are not compelled to have piped services. The Portishead water has within the last few years been carried as far as Martcombe Farm, and it would be a great advantage if it could be taken as far as the hamlet of same name, where there is only rainwater and a stream some distance from the nearest house. Some cottages on St. George's Common have wells.

Flax Bourton.—630 acres, 53 houses, 20 piped services. Bristol Water Co. supplies this village. Fourteen houses supplied by standpipe near Church, though some of the houses are over 200 feet from the standpipe. Some farms and cottages are supplied by wells.

Kenn.—830 acres, 60 houses. Clevedon Water Co.'s main comes just into the parish and supplies five houses. Remainder supplied by shallow wells. It would be a great benefit if the main

could be carried through the village, as shallow wells are very liable to be polluted, and the sanitary condition of the village is not too satisfactory.

Kingston Seymour.—2,667 acres, 55 houses. No public supply. Supplies are mostly shallow wells and rainwater. As this is a large milk-producing parish, a good water supply is badly needed. Unfortunately the farms and cottages are very scattered. The parish adjoins Yatton on one side and Clevedon on the other, both of which have public services. Failing the extension into this parish of one or both of these supplies, much could be done by providing proper storage of rainwater collected from roofs of buildings.

Long Ashton.—4,190 acres, 525 houses. pipe and services about 400. Bristol Water Co. supplies most of the houses, the main running through the village and also the Leigh Woods portion of the parish, and new roads laid out by Ashton Court Estate, Chestnut Road and Ridgeway. Some cottages and farms at Yanley are supplied by piped service from a spring near railway. Isolated farms and cottages are supplied by wells, and some near Flax Bourton boundary have rainwater only. There has been a great improvement in this parish during the past five years, notably at Providence, where the Council went to considerable expense in providing a pumping station and reservoir and by paying for the pumping. The hamlet was supplied by standpipes at suitable points, only one house having a piped service. Recently the Bristol Water Co. have purchased the pumping station and reservoir owing to developments in the districts.

Nailsea.—2,366 acres, 550 houses. Bristol Water Co. supplies a large part of the parish. The main enters at the foot of Buckland's Batch and runs to the Post Office, where it branches in three directions, one to Kingshill, one into Wraxall parish and the other towards Tickenham. A Branch in Back Lane, one to Heath Brewery and another to Nailsea Park. There is a main to Woodside Terrace, and other branches towards Old Church and Ashaye Estate, so that the thickly-populated parts of the parish are well supplied. Buckland's Batch has separate supply for 24 houses (Shepstone supply). The Heath Brewery supply is gradually being superseded, with advantage, as the water is of doubtful purity. Some parts are badly supplied and in dry weather there is a scarcity, viz. : at West End, South Common, Union Street, and Old Church neighbourhood, though there are some good wells.

North Weston.—1,054 acres, 240 houses. Piped service only to part of Redcliff Bay Estate. This latter has developed since 1915, and now contains 170 dwellings, and is growing still. Portishead Water Co.'s 3-inch main runs to the boundary of this estate, and a service pipe has been laid from this and supplies several standpipes as far as gravitation will carry the water. This, however, only touches the fringe of the estate. Houses outside 400 feet from nearest standpipe are compelled to put in rainwater

storage tanks. But several wells are also used. It is greatly to be desired that the Portishead Water Co. should extend their main to this place. Weston Road and Honeylands are supplied by wells, some of them being polluted. North Weston village is supplied by wells, but four cottages near Clapton boundary are a considerable distance from any drinking water supply.

Portbury.—2,847 acres, 104 houses. Portishead Water Co.'s main runs through the village and supplies most of the houses. There are four standpipes for those that have no piped service. The Redding Cottages near Clapton have a dipping place supplied by a spring. Caswell Farm and cottages have a piped service from spring. Warren Cottage has only rainwater.

Tickenham.—1,629 acres, 83 houses. Clevedon Water Co. has recently extended their main to Middletown (1923). This supply is available also for many cottages on the hillside. From Middletown to Wraxall Hill the Tickenham Mill supply serves. A few houses on Tickenham Hill and Court Hill have only rainwater supply.

Walton-in-Gordano.—1,190 acres, 169 houses. Clevedon Water Co. supplies 120 houses (all piped services) at Walton Park, and ten houses on Clevedon-Portishead Road. Old Walton is well supplied by wells and springs. Walton Down has fair supply, though some cottages are at a considerable distance from it. The Manor House has a good spring supply.

Weston-in-Gordano.—708 acres, 29 houses. All supplied by wells. The Walton Manor Estate is supplied by water from a well on Weston Moor, pumped to a reservoir from which piped services are laid to the houses.

Winford.—3,340 acres, 215 houses. Chiefly supplied by wells, but some cottages use water from a stream which is not satisfactory. Ridgell supplied by wells and springs. Kingdown, Felton Hill, and Potter's Hill by rainwater; Upper Town, Felton, by wells. The well at George and Dragon Inn supplies about 30 houses in Felton Street. The question of bringing the Bristol Water Co.'s supply to the Felton district was raised recently, owing to the lack of proper water supply at Felton, St. Katherine's School, but the cost was found to be prohibitive for so small a population. Proper catchment area and storage tanks for rainwater seems to be the only practical solution of the difficulty here.

Wraxall.—4,125 acres, 242 houses. Bristol Water Co. supplies from Nailsea boundary to Battle Axes Inn, and branch extends to Wraxall Hill Road. Tyntesfield and Charlton Houses and farms have piped service pumped from a spring near Watercress Farm. Failand Hill House and cottages are supplied by pumping from a spring. There is also a piped service for a number of cottages at Failand, and Portishead Water Co.'s supplies some houses in the district. Other scattered cottages and farms are supplied by wells, and a bungalow at a high altitude by rainwater

only. A new colony has arisen at "60 acres," Failand, on a cleared plantation. All sorts of structures had been put up on this site before building bye-laws had been made applicable to the whole area, and there was no water supply within a reasonable distance. The owner of the land has spent a large sum of money in attempting to find water, but so far without success, and it is advisable that further building should be checked until a supply is provided. Residents have been ordered to construct storage tanks of large capacity for rainwater, but some of the older dwellings still have insufficient storage to carry them through a dry period. Plans for houses projected since the bye-laws came into force are not passed unless they show proper provision for storage.

Yatton.—5,602 acres, 504 houses. There is a public supply owned by the parish, with mains well distributed throughout the populous parts, the chief exception being the Hamlet of Hewish, which is badly supplied. Recently extensions have been made from Bishop's Road to foot of Rhodyate and from Claverham Chapel to Meeting-house Lane. There was considerable prejudice against this supply at first, and connections were made very slowly, but of late good progress has been made. The supply of this parish is now as good as any in the area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are a number of cases of moderate pollutions of streams, some of which have been remedied, but few cases of gross pollution. The only really bad cases are at (1) Bishopsworth, where the Malago stream is badly polluted in its lower reaches adjoining Bristol. A new sewage-system is approaching completion, which will probably completely remove this trouble.

(2) Long Ashton.—The Longmoor Brook receives the sewage works effluent, which has been unsatisfactory, but the septic gas system recently installed has improved this somewhat, and it is hoped will remove this pollution altogether when in full working order.

(3) Yatton.—The Stowey Rhine is polluted by sewage from several houses in the village, and the Horsecastle section is also in a bad state. These matters are under consideration, and are further dealt with in the next section of this report.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A detailed account of the methods of sewage disposal not having been given for some years, a separate report on each parish is here given:—

Abbots Leigh.—Has no public system. Private houses and farms have w.c.'s and cesspools. Some farms have cesspools and chain pumps. Half the cottages have earth closets, the remainder privies only.

Backwell.—At Farleigh a sewer runs through the village to a large cesspool, the overflow from which has given rise to complaints of pollution of ditches and ponds. Most of the houses in Farleigh drain into this sewer. In other parts of the parish w.c.'s to cesspools, privies and earth closets are used. The number of houses has increased considerably of late, and the Council have under consideration a comprehensive scheme for the greater part of the parish, embracing Farleigh, West Town, a portion of Church Town, and Nailsea Station Road—about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of sewer with a disposal works near railway line towards Brockley. Some parts of the parish are too isolated to be included in the scheme. It is hoped that this scheme will shortly be ready to submit to the Ministry of Health.

Barrow Gurney.—Farms and large houses have w.c.'s and cesspools. Nearly all cottages have earth closets. There is a septic tank and filter system (Stoddart's) in the village for the Inn, two cottages and a laundry.

Bishopsworth.—There is a sewer at Whitening Yard which drains into the Longmoor culvert and discharges into the Avon. On the Bridgwater Road a length of sewer serves 15 houses and discharges by the side of main road. This is unsatisfactory. Highridge Common, from the Dundry Road northwards, is not sewered, most of the houses have w.c.'s and cesspools, a few privies only. Hedley and isolated farms and cottages have w.c.'s and cesspools. Central Bishopsworth, Queen's Road to Oakhill Farm, Grange Road, lower village, Whitechurch Road, and Highridge Road to the Dundry boundary are now provided with a sewer, just completed. This discharges into the Bristol system by arrangement with the Bristol authority, who have consented to allow not more than 500 houses to join the sewer, an annual payment per house being made by this Council for the convenience. This provides practically a complete system for this part of the parish and removes a long-standing nuisance, the pollution of the stream running through the village, which has up to the present received overflows from cesspools and direct sewage at numerous points.

Brockley.—Houses few and scattered, mostly provided with w.c.'s and cesspools.

Clapton-in-Gordano.—Houses also scattered. Better-class houses have w.c.'s and cesspools, but some cottages have old-type privies.

Dundry.—Houses scattered, but some in clumps. Modern houses have w.c.'s and cesspools, or earth closets, some of the old ones have privies.

Easton-in-Gordano.—There are three different areas in this parish :—

(1) The outer parish has no public sewer, w.c.'s with cesspools and earth closets are used, but there are still a number of privies.

(2) Pill Special Drainage District has a sewer constructed in 1873, which is still fairly satisfactory, though there are defective parts which should be equipped with more inspection chambers, and arrangements for cleaning and ventilation. All houses are connected with the sewer except six which have cesspools. Most houses have automatic flushes now, but some are only hand-flushed. The sewer discharges into the Avon at the lower end of the village.

(3) The Environments of Pill.—A number of houses just outside the Special Drainage District have been allowed to join the sewer by making lump sum payments.

The Portbury (or Easton-in-Gordano) Shipyard has a sewage system discharging into the Avon, but except for a few huts and Sheephouse Farm, which are still occupied, the place is derelict, and in the hands of the Government Disposal Board.

Flax Bourton.—A sewer, or combined drain, runs from Castle Farm to Priory Farm, and takes the drainage of nine houses. Most of the other houses have w.c.'s and cesspools, a few have earth closets.

Long Ashton.—There are two sewer systems in this parish :—

(1) In the main village, a system laid in 1906 from Research Station to near Ashton Court Jubilee Lodge, extending to Providence, Ashton Hillside, and Glebe Road to Yanley Farm. 360 houses connected, 296 with automatic flushes, and 161 with fitted baths. The disposal works are at Parsonage Farm, and consist of a Stoddart's filter system, the effluent discharging into Longmoor Brook. This effluent has not been satisfactory for some time, and the Council accepted the offer of the Septic Gas Co. of Australia to install their system free of expense to the Council, as a demonstration plant. This was completed this year and is working. The effluent has improved, but is not quite satisfactory yet. One reason is the large amount of storm and other water that gets into the sewer renders the sewage too dilute for the Septic Gas plant to deal with it properly. Efforts are being made to discover the sources of and cut off this extra water from the sewer. Some sources have been found and removed. It is hoped eventually that the new system will produce a satisfactory effluent.

(2) The other system is at Bower Ashton. This takes drainage of 14 houses at Bower Ashton and Ashton Court, and discharges into the Avon.

Leigh Woods consists chiefly of large residences which have cesspools with pervious bottoms, except recently built ones. As these houses have Bristol Water Co.'s supply there is little risk of polluted drinking water. A vacuum cesspool emptier is employed by many of the residents to empty their cesspools.

There are a number of isolated farms and other dwellings in the parish that cannot be linked up to either of the systems. These have chiefly w.c.'s and cesspools, but some have earth closets and a few still have privies.

Kenn.—Has no public sewer ; w.c.'s and cesspools, earth closets and privies are all found here. The country is very flat, and the earth closet system is the most suitable for this parish.

Kingston Seymour.—Has no public sewer ; also very flat, a few houses have w.c.'s and cesspools, but most of the cottages have old type privies.

Nailssea.—There is a Stoddart's filter and septic tank system at Buckland's Batch, dealing satisfactorily with 25 houses, and two other installations working satisfactorily. All new houses have w.c.'s and cesspools with soakaways for bath and surface waters. Most of the cottages have privies, which are slowly being converted to earth closets. There is, however, a prejudice against these latter which is difficult to overcome.

North Weston.—Thirty-eight houses in Weston Road have hand-flushed w.c.'s and are drained to a cesspool built by the Sanitary Authority many years ago. Four cottages drain into another cesspool. Most of the other houses have w.c.'s to cesspools, many of which are badly constructed and need attention, or alterations of system. Redcliffe Bay, lately developed, is principally served by earth closets and soakaways, but a few of the permanent dwellings have cesspools.

Portbury.—A sewer of Ashton Court Estate takes drainage of several cottages. Farms and some modern houses have w.c.'s and cesspools. Cottages mostly have earth closets. One new house has a Tuke Bell sewage filter.

Tickenham.—Modern houses have w.c.'s and cesspools or earth closets. Many of the old cottages have old-type privies.

Walton-in-Gordano.—Walton Park, a residential neighbourhood of 120 houses, has a sewage system which discharges into the Bristol Channel. All but four houses have flush w.c.'s and are connected to the system. Complaints were made of escape of sewer gas where the sewer drops vertically down to the foreshore level. This was remedied by providing cement top with inspection cover, and a fresh air inlet with mica flap. A portion of the sewer between Bay Road and the Cliff collapsed and was repaired. This sewer is adequately ventilated by a 6in. ventilating shaft at the head of each of the four branches.

Walton village, Walton Down, and isolated houses have w.c.'s and cesspools as a rule, but some cottages have earth closets and a few have privies.

Weston-in-Gordano.—A sewer takes the drainage of several houses in the village and discharges into fields on the Moor. Incidentally it pollutes a watercourse, but not seriously. Other houses have privies or earth closets.

Winford.—No public sewer. Privies are numerous here, but some houses have w.c.'s and cesspools. There is room for improvement in the sanitary conveniences here, but each case has to be dealt with separately in this type of parish.

W'raxall.—No public sewer. A large scattered parish. Most farms and good houses have w.c.'s and cesspools. Tyntesfield Estate favours earth closets. Some privies still exist and there are two septic tanks and filter systems at private houses. One, Stoddart's, the other 'Tuke Bell's system.

Yatton.—Consists of three separate villages, Yatton, Cleeve, and Claverham, and a small hamlet—Hewish—separated from the rest of the parish by a small river. Cleeve, Claverham, and Hewish have w.c.'s and cesspools, and earth closets which are satisfactory, and a few privies which should be eliminated.

At Yatton there is a road drain which for years has been receiving overflows from cesspools and in a few cases direct sewage from houses. This discharges into the Stowey Rhine and causes pollution, which calls for attention at an early date. There is also a length of drain at Horsecastle which takes the overflow from several cesspools. Apart from these drains the parish is served by w.c.'s to cesspools, earth closets, and a considerable number of privies, which have overflows and pollute rhines and ditches.

The parish owns a vacuum cesspool emptier, but it is not used to anything like the extent it should be. If it were used to empty cesspools regularly there would be no necessity for these overflows, and consequently little pollution of rhines. A sewage system for the village would be a difficult and expensive matter owing to the flat nature of the district, and should be avoided on this score if possible. The pollution of rhines should, however, be prevented by compelling residents to empty their cesspools and cut off overflows.

SCAVENGING.

House refuse is collected by contract in three villages, viz. :—

(1) *Pill Special Drainage District*.—Collection twice weekly, the old dump, the cause of many complaints, has been closed down and the refuse is taken to an isolated part of Abbots Leigh parish, which is quite suitable and causes no nuisance. Very few proper covered bins are used by householders, old boxes, leaky buckets, etc., being the favourite receptacle. Efforts have been made to remedy this by circularising the householders, but with poor results.

There are a number of residences adjoining, but just outside the Special Drainage District, where collection of refuse is required, but any arrangement for this will have to be made by the residents, as apparently the Council cannot make a rate for this purpose, without including the whole parish.

(2) *Yatton*.—Collection weekly for Yatton and fortnightly for Cleeve. There are no complaints as to the efficiency of collection, etc.

(3) *Long Ashton*.—Collection weekly since 1924 in the main village and monthly in Leigh Woods. The convenience seems to be greatly appreciated in the village. The refuse is deposited in an old brick hole at Ashton Vale Colliery.

Efforts are being made to introduce collection of refuse at Backwell, and at Walton Park steps are being taken to create a special area for this, for which a rate could be charged. This has the Council's support, and it has been decided to ask the Ministry of Health to sanction it. Throughout the rest of the area refuse is disposed of in the gardens; many, however, have no suitable place to deposit their rubbish, the result being that unsightly heaps are discovered from time to time on roadsides, placed there presumably by people who have no garden or other suitable means of disposing of their refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

There has been no systematic inspection carried out in this district during the past five years, but large numbers of houses are inspected in the course of routine work, as the result of complaints and for various other reasons, the result being that a close watch is kept and few insanitary conditions of importance escape attention.

Details of inspections and their results are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report below :—

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Long Ashton Rural District, Somerset.

	No. of Complaints received during the year	240
	No. of Houses, Premises, etc., Inspected	810
	No. of Re-visits to see that work has been carried out, or other reasons	915
Inspections.	No. of Houses or Premises Cleansed, Repaired or White- washed under Public Health Acts	301
	No. of Orders Issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses or premises (not Housing)	301
	No. of Houses Disinfected, or to which Disinfectants were supplied	61
	No. of Visits to cases of Infectious Disease	250
	Tuberculosis—Disinfections, 18; Visits, 78.	
Sewers.	No. of New Sewers laid down by Builder	1
	No. of Sewers Cleansed or Repaired	5
	No. of Visits to Sewage Works, Cesspools, etc.	290
House Drains.	No. Repaired or Cleansed	24
	No. Re-laid (piped)	12
	No. Trapped or Ventilated	26
	No. of New Pipe Drains laid	190
Earth Closets, Privies, Cesspools & W.C.'s.	No. of Privies Cleansed or Re-constructed	14
	No. of Cesspools Cleansed or Re-constructed	10
	No. of New Cesspools	63
	No. of new W.C.'s (not including new houses)	10
	No. of new W.C. pans or repairs	20
	No. of E.C.'s constructed	51
	No. of E.C.'s converted from privies	5

Water Supply.	{ No. of Samples of Water taken for Examination	7
	{ No. of Existing Houses supplied with Company's Water ...	14
	{ No. of New Wells	2
	{ No. of Wells or Cisterns Cleansed or Repaired	4
New Houses.	{ No. of New Houses Completed and Occupied	172
	{ No. of such Houses supplied by Company's Water	116
	{ No. of New Houses supplied with Wells or Cisterns	56
	No. of Dairies, etc., Inspected	413
	No. of Bakehouses Inspected	16
	No. of Slaughter-houses Inspected	10
	No. of Factories Inspected	2
	No. of Workshops Inspected	15
	Cases of Overcrowding :—Reported, II ; Abated, 6.	
	Steam Disinfectors—Occasions used	66
	No. of Statutory Notices served	10
	Ministry of Health Enquiry	1
	Legal Proceedings	1

(Signed) EDWARD T. H. HAWKINS,

Assoc.R.San.Inst., M.S.I.A.,

Flax Bourton, Bristol.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in this district number 25 and are on the whole in a good state of repair and suitable for their purposes as regards construction, situation and sanitary condition. There are defects still in some, but a great deal has been done in recent years to bring them up to the standard required by the Education Authorities. The chief matters of interest are :—

Abbots Leigh.—The old school was condemned some years ago and has at last been demolished. A new up-to-date school is now being built and should be ready in a few months. The Parish Hall is being used temporarily as a school.

Backwell.—About two years ago, owing to the unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements, a new earth closet system was built and is quite satisfactory.

Bishopsworth.—The sanitary arrangements were overhauled about three years ago and made quite satisfactory. W.C. system now connected to new sewer.

Pill.—Various alterations to the internal arrangements, ventilation, etc., of the school are required by the Education authority and some external repairs are needed. These are under consideration of the Managers, and will, it is hoped, be carried out during the coming year. The sanitary arrangements were reconstructed a few years ago.

Tickenham.—The sanitary arrangements are unsatisfactory and the Managers' attention has been called to this.

Wraxall (Girls' and Infants' School).—The attention of the Managers has been called to the unsatisfactory position of the closets, but so far this matter has not been dealt with. The water supply and sanitation of all the schools is given in the following table :—

Table showing Water Supply and Sanitary Arrangements, etc., of Schools in the Long Ashton Rural District.

Parish.	Type of School.	No. of Children Attending.	Water Supply.	Sanitary Arrangements.	Sanitary Condition, etc.
Abbots Leigh	Council	16	Bristol Water Co. ...	*E.C. system ...	Satisfactory
Backwell	*C. of E.	92	" " ...	E.C. system ...	"
Barrow Gurney	C. of E.	32	Rainwater ...	E.C. system ...	"
Bishopsworth	C. of E.	199	Bristol Water Co. ...	W.C. to sewer ...	"
Clapton-in-Gordano	C. of E.	39	Carried from spring ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	"
Dundry	C. of E.	69	Well water and spring... ..	E.C. system ...	"
Easton-in-Gordano— (1) St. George's	C. of E.	61	Portsmouth Water Co. ...	E.C. system ...	"
(2) Pill	C. of E.	353	" " Co. ...	W.C. to sewer ...	"
Flax Bourton	C. of E.	27	Bristol Water Co. ...	E.C. system ...	"
Kenn	C. of E.	27	Well water ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	"
Kingston Seymour	C. of E.	54	Well water ...	E.C. system ...	"
Nailsea—(1) Holy Trinity	C. of E.	152	Well water ...	E.C. system ...	"
(2) Christ Church	C. of E.	91	Bristol Water Co. ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	"
Long Ashton	C. of E.	183	" " " ...	W.C. to sewer ...	"
Portbury	C. of E.	50	Portsmouth Water Co. ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	"
Tickenham	C. of E.	32	Cleveland Water Co. ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	"
Walton-in-Gordano	C. of E.	25	None at School	E.C. system (girls' section) (boys) ...	Not satisfactory
Weston-in-Gordano	C. of E.	50	Village pump (drinking)	W.C. to cesspool ...	Satisfactory
Winford—(1) Winford	C. of E.	86	Rainwater (not good) ...	W.C. to sewer ...	"
(2) Ridgehill...	C. of E.	11	Well ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	Not satisfactory
Wraxall—(1) Boys	C. of E.	13	Bristol Water Co. ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	"
(2) Girls and Infants.	C. of E.	89	" " " ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	Satisfactory
(3) Failand	C. of E.	38	Rainwater for flushing. Spring (50 yards away)	W.C. to cesspool ...	Not satisfactory
Yatton—(1) National	C. of E.	158	(drinking water). Yatton Public Supply ...	W.C. to sewer ...	Satisfactory
(2) British	Undenominational	87	" " " ...	W.C. to sewage filter & septic tank system	"
(3) Cleveo	C. of E.	?	" " " ...	W.C. to cesspool ...	"

* C. of E.—Church of England. E.C.—Earth Closet system.

HOUSING.

The problem of housing the working population of this area is and will be for some time a cause of anxiety, as in most parts of the country; but considerable progress has been made during the past year, much more than in any year since the war. It is to be regretted that a large amount of the new building is not of the type of house required by the working classes, but even these houses tend to lessen the shortage of that type. A great increase is also noticeable in the repairing of houses that had become dilapidated, many cottages that were on the verge of, or had become actually unfit for habitation have been rendered reasonably fit, thus averting the necessity for closing orders. This has been the result partly of owners realising the necessity of repairs, but largely of inspection and informal notices by the Sanitary Inspector. Formal notices and closing orders are only resorted to in extreme cases, much having been achieved by courteously pointing out to owners what is required.

As regards shortage, it is extremely difficult to estimate how much this is local and how much is due to the proximity of this area to Bristol. I am inclined to think that there would be little shortage of working-class dwellings in the district apart from the gradual process of decay requiring new cottages to replace those beyond repair, but the shortage becomes severe in some parishes near Bristol, owing to the influx of persons unable to find houses in that city, causing overcrowding, and the question arises as to how far it is the duty of this Council to provide houses to relieve this overcrowding. To sum up, conditions in the really rural parishes are fairly good, especially at Abbots Leigh and Barrow Gurney. In the more thickly populated villages—Pill, Bishopsworth, Nailsea, and Yatton there are a number of unhealthy cottages, due partly to bad construction bad situation or dilapidated condition, and a systematic inspection, followed by definite action under the Public Health Acts, would be beneficial. With the present staff this could not be carried out quickly enough to be of real service. To be effective this work should be completed in a short period of time, and action taken at once, combined with a building programme sufficiently extensive to provide accommodation for tenants of houses condemned.

A brief account is given below of the general state of housing in each parish, followed by housing statistics of the year in tabular form.

Abbots Leigh.—General housing conditions good. No shortage or excess. No overcrowding. Fitness of houses good. A very satisfactory parish.

Backwell.—General conditions fair. Slight shortage. Private enterprise and the granting of building subsidies has done something to relieve shortage. An important change is taking place in this parish, the building of new houses and bungalows by people from Bristol chiefly having been considerable during the past three or four years.

Ten cases of overcrowding, relieved by removal to larger houses and in some cases by the reduction of size of families by elder children leaving home. The defects in unfit houses are dampness and unsatisfactory situation. There are ten unfit houses; two closing orders issued this year and one of the houses is still void.

Barrow Gurney.—Housing conditions very satisfactory, probably the best parish in the district in this respect. No shortage or excess. No overcrowding; no unfit cottages; one unfit was demolished and a new one built on the site.

Bishopsworth.—General conditions good, but there are some bad parts. Shortage is difficult to estimate, the parish adjoining Bristol and many of the residents are Bristol people. This Council has built 12 houses to meet shortage, and allotted them to people living in unfit or overcrowded houses. Nine more are under consideration. A large number of houses are being built privately, but nearly all let or sold to Bristol people, and the type of population is changing as a result.

Eleven cases of overcrowding have been dealt with, six remaining unrelieved. Influx of Bristol people the main cause.

Chief defects in unfit houses are dampness, dilapidated condition and structural defects. Many could be made fit if it was possible to get them free of occupants for a time. Defects remedied usually as result of informal notices, followed, if necessary, by formal notice and closing order. Three houses are marked for demolition, one has already been done. The new sewage system will greatly improve the sanitary condition of many dwellings. The worst parts of the parish are (1) Whitening Yard, where a large number of the houses are insanitary; (2) houses near King's Head Inn on the Bridgwater Road; and (3) some houses in Queen's Road. Drastic action will have to be taken in these cases if any marked improvement is to be obtained.

Brockley.—General conditions good; no shortage or excess; No overcrowding. Houses generally fit.

Clapton-in-Gordano.—General conditions fairly good; no shortage or excess; no overcrowding. Most cottages in good condition.

Dundry.—General conditions fair. Shortage—about six houses to replace unfit ones of that number. No measures contemplated at present to deal with these cases. Two cases of overcrowding still unrelieved. Defects in unfit houses are extreme dampness, due in some cases to being built into the hillside. No action taken this year. Tenants and owners are equally responsible for neglect of houses. Population practically stationary.

Easton-in-Gordano.—General conditions rather unsatisfactory at Pill, but considerable improvement has taken place in recent years. Shortage is chiefly due to persons from Avonmouth and Bristol seeking accommodation and causing overcrowding here, the

native seafaring population have in many cases moved into new and larger houses, owned by themselves; those vacated being immediately occupied again by dock workers, etc. Nine houses built this year by the Council have been allotted to persons living in unfit houses. Most of these houses have since been rendered habitable and are re-occupied. Nine more houses are to be built in coming year, which, when ready for occupation, will help to relieve shortage considerably. Private enterprise is at present doing little to relieve shortage in the parish, but a few cottages have been built at St. George's since the war.

Thirty cases of overcrowding dealt with this year, chiefly caused by influx of Avonmouth and Bristol people. Some abated by removing tenants to new Council houses, others by informal notice. Many cottages unfit, owing to dampness, dilapidations, back-to-back houses, unsatisfactorily arranged, and congestion. Tenants and owners both at fault in some respects. Thirteen closing orders issued; in other cases defects have been remedied as the result of informal notices.

“The Barton,” Pill, is an area which might be dealt with as an “unhealthy area.”

Flax Bourton.—General conditions fairly good; no shortage or excess; no overcrowding. Population stationary. Fitness of houses fairly good.

Kenn.—General conditions poor. Cottages mostly of poor type, and sanitary conditions not good. Very little shortage, except to replace bad cottages. Overcrowding, two cases; both abated. Principal defects are dampness, privies, lack of space near houses. No definite action taken beyond informal notices to get defects remedied.

Kingston Seymour.—General conditions poor, but no shortage or excess. Defects in unfit houses, dampness, disrepair, and insanitary surroundings. Informal notices have obtained many improvements. Two cases of overcrowding; both relieved without drastic action.

Long Ashton.—General conditions good, though there are some defective dwellings; much improvement during last five years. Shortage chiefly due to proximity to Bristol. Twenty Council houses built since the war to relieve shortage, some of which are let to people employed in Bristol. A good deal of building has been done recently, but principally for well-to-do Bristol people. Eleven cases of overcrowding were dealt with this year, due chiefly to families being too large for size of house occupied. Most of these abated by arrangement after informal notices, but some still unrelieved. Three closing orders were issued during the year. Considerable improvement, by repair and reconstruction, has been made in the fitness of houses, but more remains to be done. Population is increasing.

Narlsca.—General conditions only fair. The parish contains a number of very poor-class cottages, many in a bad state of repair. A considerable number of new houses have been built, but not of working-class type. Ten cases of overcrowding, due to lack of sufficiently large houses. No legal action taken this year. Defects in unfit houses are dampness, disrepair, structural defects, and insanitary conditions. Three closing orders issued in 1925. Some repairs and reconstructions have been done, but a large amount remains to be done.

North Weston.—General conditions unsatisfactory in old part of the parish. At Weston Road there are 35 houses, mostly badly constructed, built many years ago as temporary dwellings during construction of Portishead Docks. These are nearly all in a bad state of repair, and in other respects insanitary. This neighbourhood is to all intents and purposes a slum, and should be dealt with as such. There is some overcrowding, and the Council propose building some cottages to relieve this and to enable some of the worst houses to be closed.

The condition of cottages in other parts of the parish are fair. Redcliffe Bay is a new residential district consisting chiefly of temporary bungalows, built in the last ten or twelve years. The water supply is a difficulty here, and some of the structures are far from satisfactory. There are, however, some good permanent dwellings. No cases of overcrowding or of unfit houses have been dealt with this year, except informally.

Portbury.—General conditions fairly good. No shortage or excess; no overcrowding. No marked defects in houses, and those found are usually promptly put right.

Tickenham.—General conditions fairly good; very little shortage. Two cases of overcrowding, not yet dealt with. Fitness of houses fair, and improvements are obtained with little trouble as a rule.

Walton-in-Gordano.—Conditions fair in village itself, but there are some poor cottages. Some new cottages have been built in recent years. No overcrowding. Walton Park consists of good-class houses, and is really a suburb of Clevedon.

Weston-in-Gordano.—General conditions not good. There are numerous defective cottages, some of which are only fit for demolition. Several cases of overcrowding, and at least six cottages should be built to replace unfit ones. No legal action in this respect so far, but action should be taken at early date.

Winford.—General conditions not good. Many dilapidated cottages. Some shortage; extent not known, as no systematic inspection has been made.

Wraxall.—General conditions fairly good; some shortage. About six new cottages required. Houses owned by Tyntesfield estate are kept in good condition. A new colony has sprung up at

“ 60 Acres,” Failand, about 50 dwellings having been built there in the last few years, mostly owned and occupied by Bristol people. Some are only temporary structures. Water supply is a difficulty here. Detailed inspection not made so far, but should be done at an early date.

Yatton.—General conditions not good; considerable shortage. Twelve cottages have been built at Claverham by the Council to relieve this. Eight more have been commenced and two more contemplated. This will not meet the shortage. Efforts have been made to induce persons to build with the help of a subsidy, but without success. Thirty cases of overcrowding, six of which were relieved by the new houses; five cases due to workpeople at the Tannery requiring accommodation near their work. Many of the workpeople at Furniture Factory live too far from their work, and the firm are considering building to relieve this difficulty. One closing order issued. Many cottages are damp, in bad state of repair, etc.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	224
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	33
(ii) By other bodies or persons	52

1. Unfit dwelling-houses :—

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	101
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	40
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	20
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	20

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers	15
---	----

3. Action under statutory powers :—

A—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	40
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	Nil.
B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	61
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	40
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
C—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	19
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk Supply.—This is, on the whole, quite satisfactory, though there are many milk producers' premises that could be improved. A considerable number, however, who are realising the great importance attached to this subject by the authorities and the general public, are taking steps to bring their cowsheds and milking methods into line with modern requirements. Considerable attention is given to inspection in this district, but there is still much to be done. Six premises have been put into satisfactory condition this year. The occupier of one of these is applying for a T.T. Grade A certificate. There is already one Grade A producer, and one licensed for pasteurized milk. There are several producers obtaining milk practically up to Grade A standard, but not yet licensed.

There are few complaints of difficulty in obtaining a sufficient quantity of milk in the district.

No. of producers	360
No. of distributors :—	
(1) Distributors who are also producers	39
(2) Distributors only	14
	53

There is every reason to believe that the register is complete, frequent inspections being made to ensure this.

No action has been necessary this year as to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

Licences granted :—1 Grade A ; 1 Pasteurized.

There have been no refusals of licences or revocations of licences previously granted.

No bacteriological examinations of samples have been made this year, except in cases of those licensed, but inspections and examinations of selected farms are being arranged for in the coming year by the County Medical Officer of Health, with the assistance of the District Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

Meat.—Inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who receives notice of times of slaughter and pays surprise visits from time to time. Most of the meat consumed is produced in the district, but a fair amount is retailed by purveyors from Bristol and Clevedon, in the neighbouring villages. There is no marking of meat in this district at present.

Meat condemned :—One quarter of beef, owing to decomposition from delay in transit. Internal organs of one pig, owing to pyæmia. Internal organs of two oxen, owing to tuberculosis. Condemned meat is sent to knacker's yard if suitable, otherwise burnt.

Slaughter-houses.—There are no public slaughter-houses in the area. Private slaughter-houses are :—

		In 1920.		In Jan., 1925.		In Dec., 1925.
Registered	...	5	...	11	...	11
Unlicensed	...	6	...	—	...	—
Licensed	...	—	...	—	...	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>		
Totals	...	11	...	11	...	11
		<hr/>		<hr/>		

All are kept in satisfactory condition ; one is only occasionally used.

Other Foods.—Unsound foods : None reported this year.

Bakehouses.—There are 17 in the district, generally satisfactory as regards sanitary condition. One is too small and not well situated.

There have been no cases of food poisoning reported this year.

—————

In most respects this area compares favourably with other rural districts as regards sanitary conditions, etc. The difficulties are largely due to the wide area to be dealt with—nearly 50,000 acres and 21 parishes, with a comparatively small population and low rateable value. There are, of course, many matters that need improvement, but I should like to acknowledge here the sympathetic consideration and encouragement extended to me by your Council in any matter touching the health and sanitary condition of the district which I have had occasion to bring before it.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. T. H. Hawkins, as in the past, has rendered me every possible assistance in the performance of my duties, and my best thanks are due to him for his services, rendered all the more valuable by his intimate knowledge of the area. His ever-increasing duties are performed with skill, energy, and tact. May I also tender my grateful thanks to your Clerk, Mr. A. E. Hicks, for his kind assistance in many ways.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT NEWSOME.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925 for the Rural District of Long Ashton on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :—

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	No. of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	6	Nil	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	64	1	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	70	1	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	No. of Defects Found.	No. of Defects Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	No. of offences in respect to which Prose- cutions were instituted.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	Nil	Nil
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	Nil
Overcrowding	—	—	—	Nil
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	1	1	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective... ..	4	4	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes... ..	1	1	Nil	Nil

Offences under the Factory and

Workshop Acts :—

Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	8	8	Nil	Nil

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES, 1925.

PARISH.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Erysip- elas.	Enceph- alitis Lethar- gica	Pneumonia		Ophthal- mia Neonoto- rum	Tuberculosis.		Totals.
					Acute Primary	Infl- uenzal		Respi- ratory	Other forms.	
Abbot's Leigh	...	...	...	...	...	..	.	1	1	2
Backwell	...	1	2	...	...	...	.	...	...	3
Barrow Gurney	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bishopsworth	8	2	...	1	2	...	.	1	...	14
Brockley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clapton-in-Gordano	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dundry	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	7
Easton-in-Gordano	7	...	...	1	5	1	...	8	...	22
Flax Bourton	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	4
Kenn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Kingston Seymour	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Long Ashton	6	3	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	15
Nailsea	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
North Weston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portbury	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Tickenham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walton-in-Gordano	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Weston-in-Gordano	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Winford	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
Wraxall	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yatton	6	1	...	...	5	...	...	5	2	19
Totals	43	16	3	3	17	1	1	21	6	111

LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Population and occupations of inhabitants, Census 1921 :—

				Males.		Females.		Total.
<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	8,076	...	9,535	...	17,611
Aged 0 to 11 years	...	...	...	1,717	...	1,805	...	3,522
Aged 12 and upwards	...	...	...	6,359	...	7,730	...	14,089

OCCUPATIONS.

					Males.		Females.
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	1,752	...	128
Mining and quarrying	...	...	...	...	252	...	—
Makers of coke, lime and cement...	...	...	...	...	24	...	—
Makers of bricks, pottery and glass	...	...	...	...	3	...	—
Workers in chemicals, paints, etc.	...	...	...	...	25	...	—
Metal workers	...	...	...	...	212	...	12
Workers in precious metals	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
Electrical apparatus makers, fitters, etc.	...	...	...	...	36	...	—
Makers of watches, etc.	...	...	...	...	5	...	—
Workers in skins, leather goods makers..	...	...	...	...	34	...	10
Textile workers	...	...	...	...	6	...	1
Makers of textile goods, articles of dress	...	...	...	...	63	...	109
Makers of foods, drink and tobacco	...	...	...	...	148	...	81
Workers in wood	...	...	...	...	219	...	3
Paper workers, printers, etc.	...	...	...	...	36	...	42
Transport workers	...	...	...	...	673	...	26
Builders, bricklayers, etc.	...	...	...	...	336	...	—
Painters and Decorators	...	...	...	...	62	...	—
Workers in other materials	...	...	...	...	5	...	7
Workers in mixed and undefined materials	...	...	...	...	48	...	—
In gas, water and electricity supply	...	...	...	...	25	...	—
Commercial and financial occupations	...	...	...	...	356	...	145
Public administration and defence	...	...	...	...	93	...	34
Professional occupations	...	...	...	...	143	...	211
Persons employed in entertainments	...	...	...	...	20	...	—
Personal service	...	...	...	...	142	...	1,064
Clerks, draughtsmen, typists	...	...	...	...	163	...	102
Warehousemen	...	...	...	...	46	...	77
Stationary engine drivers, etc.	...	...	...	...	62	...	—
All other occupations	...	...	...	...	423	...	7
Totals	...	...	...	...	5,412	...	2,010
Unoccupied and retired	...	...	...	...	917	...	5,720
Totals	...	...	...	...	6,359	...	7,730
Total	...	...	...	...		14,089	

LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT.

CENSUS 1921.

OCCUPATIONS UNDER SUB-DIVIDED HEADINGS.

			Males.		Females.		Total.
Farmers	...	...	425	...	4	...	429
Farmers' Sons	...	...	166	...	30	...	196
Gardeners	...	...	365	...	16	...	381
Agricultural Labourers	...	...	673	...	34	...	707
Coal Miners	...	...	118	...	—	...	118
Stone Quarriers	...	...	98	...	—	...	98
Makers of Tobacco	...	...	55	...	63	...	118
Shipbuilders	...	...	41	...	—	...	41
Seamen	...	...	85	...	—	...	85
Domestic Servants	...	...	—	...	844	...	844
Laundry Workers	...	...	—	...	77	...	77
			2,026		1,068		3,094

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

			Per 1,000.		Per 10,000 acres.
Long Ashton Rural District	...	...	276	...	366
Somerset County Rural Districts	average		363	...	311

DIVISION OF THE PARISHES INTO AGRICULTURAL OR NON-AGRICULTURAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEFINITION IN SECTION 2, HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1924.

<i>Agricultural.</i>	<i>Non-Agricultural.</i>
Abbots Leigh.	Barrow Gurney.
Backwell.	Brockley.
Bishopsworth.	Easton-in-Gordano.
Clapton.	Flax Bourton.
Dundry.	Long Ashton.
Kenn.	Walton-in-Gordano.
Kingston Seymour.	
Nailsea.	
Portbury.	
Tickenham.	
Weston-in-Gordano.	
Winford.	
Wraxall.	
Yatton.	

